

I would like to thank Mr. S. Shanker for collecting the specimen. I am grateful to Dr. P. J. Sanjeeva Raj for guidance and encouragement and to Dr. A. G. K. Menon for helpful suggestions.

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### 11. THE WEBS OF THE SPIDER, *CYRTOPHORA CITRICOLA* (FORSKÅL)

(With a plate)

A new book on British Spiders reminded me of the paucity of information in India on the subject of spiders, and of a small observation by me made some years ago. While waiting for a train at Gonda Station in Madhya Pradesh (15 March 1959), I pottered about the neighbourhood and noticed a large agave hedge covered by a complete mass of spider webs. The hedge, at the end of a sewage field, was about 20 yards long and 10 feet wide. Every 12 or 18 inches apart was a spider and the whole mass was interspersed with egg cases. Bushes and shrubs near by were similarly covered. The specimens which I obtained were identified at the Zoological Survey of India as *Cyrtophora citricola* (Forskål).

75, ABDUL REHMAN STREET,  
BOMBAY 3,  
December 16, 1965.

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

[Mr. Hari Narayan Acharya, to whom a draft of this note was shown writes:

'*Cyrtophora citricola* is one of our commonest spiders. Its webs are found on low shrubs, practically every cactus hedge, prickly

pear bushes, *Capparis aphylla*, and on *Acacia* and other thorny trees. Though they are usually found at low level, I have found them at about a height of 8-10 feet. Sometimes they use telephone wires for their home. Though they are found in large colonies, they are neither gregarious nor social: they are individuals in the same web-mass.

‘An exhaustive description of this spider with particular reference to its web-building work will be found in Hingston’s A NATURALIST IN HINDUSTAN: Ch. X. The Dome-building Spider (With one plate). W. M. Wheeler in THE SOCIAL INSECTS at page 9 gives an interesting note on the expanse of the web of these spiders and the peculiar way in which they suspend their egg-sacs in the form of a rosary above their domes. The number of egg-sacs in a single strand varies: the maximum observed by me is up to 8.’—EDS.]

## 12. THE HOODED GRASSHOPPER, *TERATODES MONTICOLLIS* GRAY: A CORRECTION

(With a text-figure)

In the Society’s Nature Calendar for the year 1965 the Hooded Grasshopper, *Teratodes monticollis* Gray, is described as being found in western and southern India. With reference to this description Father Richard E. Lane-Smith, S. J., to whom we are grateful, has brought to our notice its occurrence in District Hazaribagh (Bihar State). Enquiry from the Zoological Survey of India reveals that



they have in their collection specimens from the following, among other, districts: Darjeeling and Midnapur in West Bengal; Hazaribagh and Singhbhum in Bihar; Ganjam in Orissa; Bangalore and Mysore in Mysore; and Mandla in Madhya Pradesh. We publish this fact to dispel